

Future NEWS

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KNOW NOT WHAT THEY BELIEVE

“The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God’s people, should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves, to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition, and worship they know not what.

”I have been shown that many who profess to have a knowledge of present truth, know not what they believe. They do not understand the evidences of their faith. They have no just appreciation of the work for the present time. When the time of trial shall come, there are men now preaching to others, who will find, upon examining the positions they hold, that there are many things for which they can give no satisfactory reason. Until thus tested, they knew not their great ignorance.

“And there are many in the church who take it for granted that they understand what they believe, but, until controversy arises, they do not know their own weakness. When separated from those of like faith, and compelled to stand singly and alone to explain their belief, they will be surprised to see how confused are their ideas of what they had accepted as truth.

“God will arouse His people; if other means fail, heresies will come in among them, which will sift them, separating the chaff from the wheat. The Lord calls upon all who believe His word to awake out of sleep. Precious light has come, appropriate for this time. It is Bible truth, showing the perils that are right upon us. This light should lead us to a diligent study of the Scriptures, and a most critical examination of the positions which we hold. God would have all the bearings and positions of truth thoroughly and perseveringly searched, with prayer and fasting.” *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, 39–40.

Future for America produces and mails out a monthly newsletter and audio presentation in English and Spanish. For information you may contact the following brethren who are affiliated with this work:

Future News

PO Box 7

Bonnerdale, AR 71933

Telephone: 888-278-7744

Circulation Manager—Kathy Pippenger

Editor & Speaker—Jeff Pippenger

JeffPippenger@msn.com

Contributing Editor—Pat Rampy

Patrick.Rampy@juno.com

Contributing Editor—Dean Ferrell

Seventhseal@firstVA.com

Spanish Department—Al & Lupe Perez

Futuro de America

PO Box 353

Glenwood, AR 71943

Telephone: 870-356-7049

aperez77@alltel.net

Future News—Canada

Phyllis Vallieres

RR 3, 2552 Cooper Road

Madoc, Ontario, K0K 2K0, Canada

Telephone: 613-473-5332

FAX 613-473-5630

phyllisv@primus.ca

Future for America—Great Britain

Russell & Charmaine Williams

29 Lascelles Close

Leytonstone, London

Telephone: 208-279-6903

judicium@aol.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The ministry of *Future for America* is to proclaim the final warning message of Revelation 14 as identified within the prophecies of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. The end-time fulfillment of Bible prophecy is no longer future—for it is taking place before our eyes. The historic, prophetic understanding of Seventh-day Adventism is now present truth. We are the final generation. Our emphasis on the prophetic word includes all the counsel of God's Word. To know what lies ahead is useless if we do not possess the experience to stand during these solemn times. Through obedience to God's law, and faith in the promises of God's Word, we are to receive that experience.

Coupled with the prophetic message, *Future for America* emphasizes all aspects of the medical missionary work. The "entering wedge"—medical missionary work—must be practiced by those who are to finish God's work in these final hours.

During this time period, country living becomes more essential with each passing moment. *Future for America* upholds and promotes this end-time truth. God's people must prepare for the coming storm, and that preparation includes the experience of learning how to survive in a simple fashion, away from the great centers of population.

Future for America intends to print and distribute truth-filled literature, while helping to establish lay-printing operations in parts of the Lord's vineyard where faithful brethren do not have the means to raise up a printing operation with their own resources.

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MINISTRY UPDATE

We are preparing to leave for meetings in Canada the first two Sabbaths of April. We then go to Chile the last Sabbath of the month. We are preparing for a two to three week prophecy school in Malaysia the last part of June, with possible meetings developing in Central Asia in the first part of June. In August we visit at least two countries in Europe for camp meetings. We solicit your prayers in these meetings, that the Lord's will may be accomplished. Our second evangelistic series in the Philippines this year begins at the end of April and we request your continued prayer support for both the public evangelistic series and the series' that will be conducted in a few prisons in the Cebu area. Our financial goals have been met for this series and we are waiting to see if the Lord is to provide the six thousand dollars for the July series.

It is easy to see that our ability to share God's message is rapidly being restricted by circumstances within the world that are leading mankind to Armageddon. What we must do now, must be done quickly and effectively. Our trip to Chile and Malaysia will primarily be financed by *Future for America*, as the brethren in both these countries have very limited funding. In both places we are going to attempt to record the meetings in order to supply professional quality master tapes of the information we share. In Chile, we are attempting to address the rampant fanaticism of reapplying time prophecies that have already come to pass. These false teachings are rapidly sweeping through South America and we seek to not only share with the brethren in Chile, but provide a series of tapes in Spanish that can be spread far and wide. In order to accomplish this there may be three of us traveling to Chile. This will allow us to have two brothers to translate, so neither will become worn out by three continuous days of meetings, and one will be manning the audio recordings while the other is translating. Our expenses therefore are greater than normal. In Malaysia we will be translating the material into Chinese for the widest possible dissemination of the message throughout Asia. The expenses necessary to insure the audio recordings will also be beyond normal. We are praying that the Lord will supply funding to help accomplish these two projects. In Malaysia we will cover virtually all the messages that we share at *Future for America*. We believe the potential for spreading the prophetic information dealing with the times we are living in is tremendous, but we once again are seeking extra funding to make it happen. If you can help financially in these endeavors, we would greatly appreciate it.

"In answer to the Lord's inquiry, 'Whom shall I send?' Isaiah responded, 'Here am I; send me.' Isaiah 6:8. You, my brother, my sister, may not be able to go into the Lord's vineyard yourself, but you may furnish the means to send others. Thus you will be putting your money out to the ex-changers; and when the Master comes, you will be able to return to Him His own with usury. Your means can be used to send forth and sustain the messengers of God, who by voice and by influence will give the message: 'Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.' Matthew 3:3. Plans are being made for the advancement of the cause, and now is your time to work." *Testimonies*, volume 8, 33.

Dear Jeff,

Happy Sabbath when it arrives this evening. May the Lord bless each one of us as we worship Him in spirit and in truth. Thanks for your deep study in the prophecies of Daniel. We have Bible studies in my home every week on Wednesday nights and we are studying end-time events. Do you have a tape, sermon or article on the “seven trumpets”. If so I would appreciate it. Thank you kindly and may God continue to bless you and yours in this end-time. If we lose heaven we lose everything. Amen. In His Service, GS—CA

Dear GS,

I don't have one, but it is the next series that I am taking up in our monthly mailing. I have been studying this for about a year and a half and now am ready to share it. Jeff

“The great leading features of Daniel's visions were the four great governments of antiquity, beginning with the Babylonian, and ending with the Roman, in its papal form. Not so, however, with John; he lived when three of those governments had passed away, and the fourth and last was in being, and in the height of its glory, as an universal monarchy. Under that government John was in banishment on the isle of Patmos, ‘for the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ Accordingly, instead of predicting the rise and triumph of either of those four great governments, it was his part to give the prophetic history of the fall of the last of the four, and **give us the various means by which that great persecuting system should come to ruin.**

“The first decisive step in the downfall of Rome, was the removal of the seat of empire from the west to the east. Until then its unity had been very faithfully preserved. After that, division and subdivision became the order of the day, until the final ruin of the empire.

“The sounding of the seven trumpets I understand to shadow forth the instrumentalities by which the Roman empire was to be overthrown and subverted, and finally ruined.

“The empire, after Constantine, was divided into three parts; and hence the frequent remark, ‘a third part of men,’ in allusion to the third part of the empire which was under the scourge. Under the first four trumpets the two western divisions fell, and under the fifth and sixth the eastern empire was crushed; but under the seventh trumpet great Babylon entire will sink to rise no more at all.” *The Sounding of the Seven Trumpets of Revelation 8 and 9*, James White.

BIGGER MONSTERS, WEAKER CHAINS

A study, by the American Civil Liberties Union, examines how public and private surveillance of innocent citizens is hindered from becoming a full-fledged “Big Brother” system only by current technological constraints—and whatever return can be mustered to constitutional “chains” binding the government from promiscuous seizure of information about anyone passing purview rather than only those reasonably suspected of criminal conduct. *The Federalist Digest*, January 17, 2003.

NATIONAL IDENTIFIERS

Creating a surveillance state will divert valuable resources away from investigating legitimate security threats into spying on innocent Americans, thus reducing security. The American people would be better served if the government focused attention on ensuring our borders are closed to potential terrorists instead of coming up with new ways to violate the rights of American citizens. . . . National identifiers threaten all Americans by exposing them to the threat of identity theft by private criminals and abuse of their liberties by public criminals, while diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from addressing real threats to public safety. In addition, national identifiers are incompatible with a limited, constitutional government. *The Federalist Brief*, January 20, 2003.

MARRIAGE OF CHURCH & STATE

In early January, the *Department of Health and Human Services* (HHS), acting through its *Administration for Children and Families*, announced that it would give \$2.2 million in federal funds to a variety of religious and other non-profit groups to sponsor programs that will purportedly strengthen marriage. Taxpayer funding of religion is key to the new strategy.

The Bush brothers' promotion of marriage is part of a new trend among the allies of the Religious Right. Long wary of anything that smacks of government-sponsored social engineering, ultra-conservative politicians and fundamentalist activists are suddenly eager to see church and state forming partnerships to encourage marriage and discourage divorce. The HHS grants are the leading edge of what could be a fast-growing trend.

Advocates of church-state separation are watching the new developments with unease. While they don't dispute the importance of strong marriages and families to society, proponents of church-state separation worry that the marriage initiative could become just another ploy to plow tax money into religious organizations under the guise of addressing a thorny social problem. *Church & State*, February 2003.

“There are not many, even among educators and statesmen, who comprehend the causes that underlie the present state of society. Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime. They are struggling in vain to place business operations on a more secure basis.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 13.

END OF NATIONAL FINANCIAL AUTONOMY

Foreigners help cover the federal deficit by buying US Treasury securities—and growing deficits mean we'll be increasingly dependent of foreign money. It's going to be increasingly difficult to lure foreigners who keep score in euros to continue buying low-yielding Treasuries that pay interest in depreciating dollars. The dollar's decline means, in theory, that we'll be exporting more to Europe than we otherwise would because our goods will be more competitive, and we'll be importing less because European goods will be more expensive. In the long run, this strengthens our economy, but in the short run, it could cause problems financing the federal deficit. If we have to raise interest rates to cater to foreign investors, it will be the beginning of the end of our financial autonomy, and that won't be a good thing. *Newsweek*, February 10, 2003.

CHINA IS ECONOMIC CLOUD OVER THE US

The US government is happy as long as China puts its trade surplus into US Treasury bonds. Economists can argue that in the long run offshore production will bid up Chinese wages, while lowering those in the United States, and eventually bring about equal wages and capital stocks across countries. But in the meantime, the US could suffer from a fall in living standards and from a loss in upward mobility, as manufacturing and high-tech jobs are moved to lower-cost countries. Massive US trade deficits have left the dollar dangerously exposed. A fall in its value could coincide with war in the Middle East. Flight from a depreciating dollar would hurt both stock and bond markets, and impair economic recovery. Economic turmoil at home can overshadow victory over Saddam Hussein. *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 15, 2003.

[Editor's note: If China were to dump its multi-billions of dollars of US Treasury bonds, it would do more than just “impair” US economic recovery!]

IS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY ABOUT TO CRASH?

Though Argentina had the cash to meet its obligations to the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and the Inter-American Development Bank, it chose not to. Instead, Argentina demanded the IMF cough up the money for Argentina to make the payment to the IMF. Terrified it would otherwise have to declare its Argentine loans in default, and deal with that on its books, the IMF decided to participate in the scam. The IMF is now doing exactly what it condemns the Japanese banks for doing, keeping worthless loans on its books at face value rather than confront the reality that the banks, too, are bust.

So, what does the future hold? Is Congress going to vote billions to bail out the international banks and deadbeat countries that have just seen how Argentina ripped-off the IMF? Now, the dollar is falling, deadbeat nations are stiffing the IMF, US dependency on imports is at record levels and growing, US debt is soaring, US production is sinking, and US willingness to see its industrial base vanish is disappearing. Yes, a crisis impends. Just don't hold me to the date. *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 26, 2003.

JAPAN: LAND OF THE SINKING SUN

Japan is No. 1 again . . . [but] for all the wrong reasons. Tokyo is [now] first in wealth contraction, down four times its gross domestic product. It's first in real-estate busts, first in financial busts, and first in national debt levels (nearly 140% of GDP). Among developed nations, Japan is the hands-down winner for having endured the worst economic slump since the Great Depression. And guess what? There's no rainbow on the horizon. The credit rating of Japan's national treasury is already so bad that one rating agency has reduced it to below that of Botswana. The Japanese central bank is so worried that it proposed buying shares owned by the banks to provide them with funds so that they could dispose of trillions of yen in bad loans. It's unclear whether even that would be enough to end Tokyo's political paralysis. What is clear is this: If Japan doesn't do something to avert a financial implosion, the resulting damage will eclipse the Land of the Rising Sun and cast a dark pall on the economic health of the West. *U.S. News & World Report*, November 4, 2002.

US ECONOMY TARGETED

Concerning Iraq's biological WMD capability, Mr. Powell [addressing the UN] gave special attention to weaponized-anthrax stores Iraq has previously admitted to possessing. Powell stressed that Baghdad has never accounted "for even one teaspoonful" of that lethal agent and may possess stores in excess of 25,000 liters. Weaponized anthrax distributed in simultaneous mailings from multiple cities would cause significant casualties and severely cripple the US economy—precisely Osama bin Laden's stated objective. *The Federalist Digest*, February 7, 2003.

ECONOMIC/NUKE ATTACKS

Al-Qa'ida is planning new attacks against the US using various conventional and WMD assaults, with the objective of reducing our economy to ruins. Some analysts at the highest levels of the intelligence and military communities believe that al-Qa'ida will, eventually, detonate a nuclear weapon (not just a radiological dispersion device but a fission weapon) in a major US urban center—and that this attack is inevitable. *The Federalist Digest*, February 14, 2003.

CHILDREN WITH EFFORTLESS WEALTH

Every young American now receives a free tutorial in envy and extravagance. This starts with a visit to *Toys "R" Us* and the endless aisles of dolls, videogames and sports equipment. After that it intensifies. If the money teens spend isn't really theirs then they will have no compelling reason to closely track how they spend it. American culture creates a tension between achieving material success and not being controlled by it. How do we teach our children to use money wisely? The stock market's collapse suggests that today's parents aren't the best teachers. The trouble is that today's middle-class children are educated into a doctrine of effortless wealth. *Newsweek*, February 10, 2003.

[**Editor's note:** What will be the result when that wealth is taken away?]

POP-CULTURE RECESSION

Declines in fast food, best selling books, and record sales suggest a growing national boredom. Pop-culture is the attempt to turn cultural artifacts—music, books, food—into commodities to sell and consume. The imperative to keep selling means that pop-culture products tend to be disposable, with not much to them. Ironically, the imperative to entertain and to keep the audience constantly stimulated means the audience becomes more and more jaded. The prime symptom of pop-culture overdose is boredom. We may have reached the point where the public is growing bored with pop-culture. For the second straight year, 2001, music sales were down 5 percent, the first decline since the industry began keeping track.

Christians have tended to make themselves slaves of the pop culture, imitating its worst features. Now that pop-culture is exhausted and the public is looking for something different, Christians have an opportunity not just to follow but to lead, and to make Christianity, as it has been for centuries, culturally influential once again. *WORLD*, January 25, 2003.

[**Editor's note:** Bored people need stronger excitement. A new war could liven things up a bit, except for those that die during the entertainment. Anyone for watching the Gladiators in the Arena—live by satellite?]

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. Ecclesiastes 1:9-10.

“Amid discord and strife, a voice was heard from the wilderness, a voice startling and stern, yet full of hope: ‘Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” *The Desire of Ages*, 104.

“It was long since Israel had had a prophet, long since such a reformation as was now in progress had been witnessed. The demand for confession of sin seemed new and startling.” *The Desire of Ages*, 133.

RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY AND MEANING

“For most of the twentieth century, intellectuals offered up various replacements for traditional religious belief: materialism, Freudianism, and socialism, to name but three. In addition to being miserable failures, these would-be substitutes had one other thing in common: They all claimed the mantle of scientific authority . . . When they failed, not only were the particular worldviews discredited, but people also began to divorce spiritual truth from reason and objectivity. Religion was replaced by ‘spirituality,’ and ‘meaning’ became a purely personal, subjective matter.” *The Federalist Brief*, January 12, 2003.

ARE PEOPLE BASICALLY GOOD OR BAD?

“. . . [If] you believe that people are basically good, God and religion are morally unnecessary, even harmful. Why would basically good people need a God or religion to provide moral standards? Therefore, the crowd that believes in innate human goodness tends to either be secular or to reduce God and religion to social workers, providers of compassion rather than of moral standards and moral judgments. . . . [And] if you believe people are basically good, you, of course, believe that you are good—and therefore those who disagree with you must be bad, not merely wrong.

You also believe that the more power that you and those you agree with have, the better the society will be. That is why such people are so committed to powerful government and to powerful judges. On the other hand, those of us who believe that people are not basically good do not want power concentrated in any one group, and are therefore profoundly suspicious of big government, big labor, big corporations, and even big religious institutions.” *The Federalist Brief*, January 12, 2003.

DYING WESTERN RELIGION

In the West, the God of Christianity has been superseded by the gods of modernity: money, sex, fame, power. These gods give a good life, but they cannot sustain life. As Christianity is a dying faith in every Western nation, every Western nation is dying. Not one has a native-born population that is reproducing itself. At present birth rates, all will be changed utterly or pass away before century's end. *The Conservative Chronicle*, January 1, 2003.

AN OLD ENEMY IS BACK

Just four years ago, syphilis—the “great pox” of the 15th century—had declined to rates so low in this country that the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention* announced a bold new plan to eliminate the disease by 2005. But the stubborn scourge has come bounding back, with outbreaks from Miami to Seattle. Last week New York City health officials announced a 50% increase in syphilis between 2001 and 2002. San Francisco's numbers more than doubled in the same period. Health officials who had hoped to herald the disease's demise are now putting the public on high alert. The rise is being attributed to urban outbreaks almost exclusively among gay and bisexual men, known in the health world as “MSM,” or men who have sex with men. The concern isn't just about the spike in syphilis, but what it could foreshadow for a deadlier epidemic. The sores that mark syphilis increase the risk of HIV transmission by two to five times. *Newsweek*, February 10, 2003.

[**Editor's note:** As in the days of Sodom . . .]

SETTLED CATHOLICISM

In faith matters, the Catholic Church is putting Catholic politicians on notice that their faith ought to matter to them—as a matter of “conscience.” The Vatican published guidelines, approved by Pope John Paul II, reminding Catholics running for and serving in elective office that the church’s teachings are settled, no matter how “controversial” in political debates. In particular, the document excoriates both ethical pluralism and the “emergence of ambiguities or questionable positions in recent times” regarding abortion, euthanasia, and “gay marriage,” while urging that Catholic politicians “must defend the basic right to life from conception to natural death . . . [and] recall the duty to respect and protect the rights of the human embryo.” *The Federalist Digest, January 24, 2003.*

[**Editor’s note:** Notice the arrogance of the declaration that the church’s teachings are settled.]

“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!

“The defenders of the papacy declare that the church has been maligned, and the Protestant world are inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times and plead that the influence of modern civilization has changed her sentiments.

“Have these persons forgotten the claim of infallibility put forth for eight hundred years by this haughty power? So far from being relinquished, this claim was affirmed in the nineteenth century with greater positiveness than ever before. As Rome asserts that the “church never erred; nor will it, according to the Scriptures, ever err”, how can she renounce the principles which governed her course in past ages? The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility.” *The Great Controversy, 563–564.*

INDIA PRAISES JESUITS

Inaugurating the 6th Jesuit Alumni World Congress in Calcutta on Tuesday, Indian president A P J Abdul Kalam hailed the contribution of the Jesuits in the field of education. “The Jesuits are doing something holy, something sacrosanct, by working in the field of education,” Kalam said. “Education gives one the ultimate human value.” The Indian leader—himself a graduate of a Jesuit school in the southern Tamil Nadu state—praised the Jesuits for their “excellent contributions not only in India but the world over.” A leading Hindu fundamentalist group, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, had criticized Kalam for accepting an invitation to open the Jesuit congress. The group described the Jesuit order as “the Pope’s soldiers,” and claimed that members had sworn to use “violent and barbaric means to decimate” non-Catholics.

In an apparent rebuke to his critics, President Kalam said: "If India is to be a developed country, the role of the Jesuits will be crucial to creating an appropriate system of value-based education." Father P.C. Matthew, the chairman of the Jesuit Alumni Congress and principal of St. Xavier's College in Calcutta, told CWN that the president's remarks were "a fitting reply" to Hindu critics. *Catholic World News Brief*, January 22, 2003.

CANADIAN COURT: "THE BIBLE IS HATE LITERATURE"

In a ruling given virtually no media coverage, the Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatchewan, ruled that a man who placed references to Bible verses on homosexuality into a newspaper ad was guilty of inciting hatred. The December 11, 2002 decision was in response to an appeal of a 2001 Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission (HRC) ruling which ordered both the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* newspaper and Hugh Owens of Regina to pay CAN\$1,500 to three homosexual activists for publishing an ad in the Saskatoon newspaper quoting Bible verses regarding homosexuality.

The purpose of the ad was to indicate that the Bible says no to homosexual behavior. The advertisement displayed references to four Bible passages: Romans 1, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, on the left side. An equal sign (=) was situated in the middle, with a symbol on the right side. The symbol was comprised of two males holding hands with the universal symbol of a red circle with a diagonal bar superimposed over top.

Justice J. Barclay rejected the appeal ruling: "In my view, the Board was correct in concluding that the advertisement can objectively be seen as exposing homosexuals to hatred or ridicule. When the use of the circle and slash is combined with the passages of the Bible, it exposes homosexuals to detestation, vilification and disgrace. In other words, the Biblical passage which suggests that if a man lies with a man they must be put to death exposes homosexuals to hatred."

Janet Epp Buckingham, Legal Counsel for the *Evangelical Fellowship of Canada*, told *LifeSite*: "The ruling that a verse from the Bible can be considered to expose homosexuals to hatred shows the danger for Scripture if Bill C-250 passes." Bill C-250, proposed by homosexual activist MP Svend Robinson, would see "sexual orientation" added to hate crime law as a prohibited ground of discrimination. February 11, *CWNNews.com*

BEARING DOWN A GREAT MASS OF EVIL

There are a few people who still believe the Constitution means what it says. One of those is Representative Ron Paul of Texas. Paul has put together an organization of congressmen called *The Liberty Caucus*. Its purpose is to build 'a national coalition to defend constitutional limits on government and by so doing promote liberty in the United States.' Paul is one of those rarities who votes not according to what he wants done but according to what the Constitution says. He's a pretty lonely guy up there on Capitol Hill most of the time. Currently the Liberty Caucus has about 21 members. And I can think of a couple of more congressmen who fit into their category. But the total number in Congress is few, which is one reason why liberty for the individual grows less almost daily. Ron Paul and his friends are fighting a rear-guard action on behalf of a people who for the most part don't really care. In a very real way they are tilting at windmills, but then so were the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord." *The Federalist Brief*, February 3, 2003.

"Many of the rulers are those whom Satan controls; but. . . God has His agents, even among the rulers. And some of them will yet be converted to the truth. . . . A few of God's agents will have power to bear down a great mass of evil. Thus the work will go on until the third message has done its work, and at the loud cry of the third angel, these agents will have an opportunity to receive the truth, and some of them will be converted, and endure with the saints through the time of trouble." *Maranatha*, 202.

WITCHCRAFT USEFUL

For Richard Thomas, a priest on the Anglican bishop of Oxford's staff, witchcraft is not to be feared or hated but to be understood as "an emerging faith community". Thomas, who is the Oxford diocese's director of communication, has spent three months meeting practitioners of Wicca, or modern pagan witchcraft, and attending their rituals. *Vatican Information Service*, January 23, 2003.

BUSH'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY 2002: PAX AMERICANA

The notion of [pre-emption and] prevention does tie in with the [Bush] doctrine's assertion that the age of great-power rivalries is over: It is a warning against any unfriendly would-be rival to America's unipolar supremacy. But does the assertion of American pre-eminence represent the abandonment of multilateralism? [Not yet.] It embraces cooperation without the loss of sovereignty. [So far.]

The Bush Doctrine contains another central element that until recently received little attention: a commitment to extending peace by "encouraging free and open societies on every continent." Richard Haass, head of the policy planning staff at the State Department, affirmed in his recent address to the Council on Foreign Relations, the administration does not view the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as "just lifestyles America thinks it ought to export." Haass concedes that the United States had for too long turned a blind eye on Middle Eastern regimes that have suppressed those rights. While that might have been justifiable as geopolitical jockeying during the Cold War, he says, it no longer is.

A country that produces nearly a third of the world's gross domestic product and whose military spending tops that of the next 20 countries combined is capable, obviously, of exerting wide influence through both soft [economic] power, and hard military muscle.

Americans demonstrated that they had little idea of what to do with their massive power, apart from marveling at it while the "new economy" soared skyward. At most, under Clinton and Bush before him, the US acted like the benign but barely attentive custodian of globalism. Now, however, it knows that peace, prosperity, and the spread of human rights are not automatically guaranteed. Their survival will require the expenditure of American will and might. *U.S. News & World Report*, January 13, 2003.

[Editor's note: At the time of the early Christian church, the "Pax Romana" provided the circumstances for the gospel to be proclaimed throughout the civilized world. Perhaps this "Pax Americana" is the last favorable circumstance for the last Christian church to proclaim the gospel to the whole world.]

And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Revelation 13:12; 17:13.

"The third wall which the papacy will bring down in order to take control of the entire world is the symbolic 'wall of national sovereignty.' The likely structure which will be used to control the world is the United Nations. Already, within the laws which have already been developed by the United Nations, we find the legal principles designed to remove national sovereignty. This organization has already written and passed laws which supercede the national laws of individual countries. In fact, many of these countries—including the United States—have already signed these agreements, placing the laws of the individual nations in subjection to the laws of the world government." *The Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*, 26.

EUROPE'S POOLING SOVEREIGNTIES

It is understandable that Europeans, painfully aware of the uses to which many of their nations put sovereignty in the 20th century, are retreating from sovereignty in the 21st. They are “pooling” their sovereignties in the European Union and other multinational institutions, and shedding it by promiscuously embracing supervision, of sorts, under instruments like CEDAW [the United Nation’s Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women].

CEDAW’s advocates are dismayed that America is the only developed democratic nation that has not ratified it. But that actually testifies to how uniquely well developed America’s democratic political culture is. In 2000, 35 senators, 32 Democrats, supported CEDAW, but ratification, which has been pending on the Foreign Relations Committee calendar for 22 years, would require 67 votes, so it will still be pending in 2024. As will complaints about US “unilateralism,” meaning self-government. *Newsweek*, September 2, 2002.

[Editor’s note: It appears that Europe is trying to get their minds all going in one direction—while the US is preparing to give the directions, and Rome is simply biding time.]

These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Revelation 17:13.

Brother:

I greet you in the name of Jesus. It is very saddening to note that in this part of the world, in Adventism, the general attitude with the subject of prophecy is: you cannot depend on lay member’s understanding, because of the risk of “new light” that is seen as contrary to our faith. I am a student of prophecy. I offered to present the subject of church and state in relation to the developments in the USA. To my shock, I was told to first submit the contents and sources of information I was going to present. It seems many think that there is no more additional information or light to come out of the word of prophecy for us living in the last days. Any new positions are not tolerated. Please pray for Africa, the last days are here. An email from Africa.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that **the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:6–11.

Dear Brother Jeff,

I am so thankful to the Lord that the ministry you are doing with “straight testimony” still exists. It was back in 1996 or 1997 you spoke at a meeting in Bakersfield, California. There were hardly any people there wanting to hear the “straight testimony”. But my father took me that presentation in Bakersfield. From then on when I heard you present the straight message from Daniel 11:40–45 it really stirred up my mind, and I couldn’t sit still. Hearing a straight message got me so interested in studying the Bible with Spirit of Prophecy.

Thank you so much going into in-depth detail on Daniel 11:41. I don’t know whether you remember, I sent you the small CD almost a year ago, it was presented by my friend from Hartland saying that the “Glorious land” is the Seventh-day Adventist church. Some how the truth (your presentation on verse 41) got around pretty fast. People I know that use to say “glorious land” is the Seventh-day Adventist church are being silent. I hope and pray that they repent & confess of the error they have caused. Even my pastor here in southern California use to think the “glorious land” was the Seventh-day Adventist church.

By the way, there is a beautiful website that uses your book *Final Rise and Fall of the King of the North*—www.present-truth.org God bless, DC—CA

Brother Jeff:

I have heard you quote where the USA will be humbled in the dust. Where is that reference?

“Said the angel: ‘Hear, O heavens, the cry of the oppressed, and reward the oppressors double according to their deeds.’ This nation will yet be humbled into the dust. England is studying whether it is best to take advantage of the present weak condition of our nation, and venture to make war upon her. She is weighing the matter, and trying to sound other nations. She fears, if she should commence war abroad, that she would be weak at home, and that other nations would take advantage of her weakness. Other nations are making quiet yet active preparations for war, and are hoping that England will make war with our nation, for then they would improve the opportunity to be revenged on her for the advantage she has taken of them in the past and the injustice done them. A portion of the queen’s subjects are waiting a favorable opportunity to break their yoke; but if England thinks it will pay, she will not hesitate a moment to improve her opportunities to exercise her power and humble our nation. When England does declare war, all nations will have an interest of their own to serve, and there will be general war, general confusion. England is acquainted with the diversity of feeling among those who are seeking to quell the rebellion. She well knows the perplexed condition of our Government; she has looked with astonishment at the prosecution of this war—the slow, inefficient moves, the inactivity of our armies, and the ruinous expenses of our nation. The weakness of our Government is fully open before other nations, and they now conclude that it is because it was not a monarchical government, and they admire their own government, and look down, some with pity, others with contempt, upon our nation, which they have regarded as the most powerful upon the globe. Had our nation remained united it would have had strength, but divided it must fall.” *Testimonies*, volume 1, 259.

[**Editor’s note:** I have used the phrase, “This nation will yet be humbled into the dust” several times, but as I looked up the entire reference, I must admit that it is primarily referring to the historic humbling of the USA during the Civil War. My apologies. Never-the-less, there are many other passages that teach that the USA will be humbled in the dust, though they don’t use those exact words.]

“It is at the time of the national apostasy, when, acting on the policy of Satan, the rulers of the land will rank themselves on the side of the man of sin--it is then the measure of guilt is full; the national apostasy is the signal for national ruin.” *Selected Messages*, book 2, 372.

“Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin.

“When Protestant churches shall unite with the secular power to sustain a false religion, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will the papal sabbath be enforced by the combined authority of church and state. There will be a national apostasy, which will end only in national ruin.

“When the state shall use its power to enforce the decrees and sustain the institutions of the church--then will Protestant America have formed an image to the papacy, and there will be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin.” *Last Day Events*, 134.

“The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and "national apostasy" will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin.” *Review and Herald*, May 2, 1893.

“When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin.” *Review and Herald*, December 18, 1888.

Dear Brother Jeff & Sister Kathy,

You’re in my prayers. I thank God that I was led to your ministry, I look at life so differently now. Each moment is to be lived growing closer to our Heavenly Father & getting my character like Christ’s. I hope one day to meet you. S.

Dear Jeff,

Thanks for sending the tapes and newsletters. I very much appreciate your insight into Bible prophecy and end-time events. A donation to the ministry is enclosed.

In your January 2003 newsletter, you give reference to the *Time of the Gentiles* as found in Luke 21 and Revelation 11 and conclude that because John’s prophecy refers to symbolic Jerusalem during the 1260 years of papal supremacy that Jesus prophecy must also give reference to symbolic Jerusalem. It appears to me that the context of Luke 21 refers to literal Jerusalem. In Luke 21:20, 21 it was from a literal Jerusalem that the Christians were instructed to take flight. In verse 24 the Lord unmistakably refers to literal Jerusalem in 70 A.D. literal Jews have been dispersed into all nations. The word “until” denotes a change that occurred during an end-time event known as the Six-Day War. If you were to accept the premise that the time of the Gentiles was fulfilled in the spring of 1967 and that the time of the Jews was fulfilled in the spring of 34 A.D. you could see a dual application of Luke 21 that related to time as well as events.

It was just 32 & ½ years from the stoning of Steven in the spring of 34 A.D. until Jerusalem was under the siege of Cestius during the fall of 66 A.D. which turned out to be a false alarm and the Christians fled the city. It was also just 32 & ½ years from the six day war in the spring of 1967 until the entire world was under the siege of Y2K during the fall of 1999 which turned out to be a false alarm and Christians failed to see this as a sign to move out of the cities. At the time of the siege of Jerusalem under Cestius, the signet of Rome, a symbol of sun worship was planted outside the gates of Jerusalem. At the time of the siege of the world by Y2K, the signet of Rome—Dies Domini—was planted by way of a Papal Encyclical and by way of the Internet before the entire world. It was just 36 years from early June of 1967 arrives during the spring of 2003. As I write this letter on February 12, 2003, I sense that the final events are upon us, that the coming spring could bring them on. While I understand that there is to be no prophecy dealing with time after 1844 and that there are potential pitfalls in speculation, it still appears that the probability of what we are talking about occurring by chance is quite remote. We will soon find out.

Thanks for listening and if you find the time, I would appreciate a response. Perhaps you could send a copy of the prophetic time series that deals with Luke 21. Thanks again and God bless. Sincerely, RM

Brother RM,

There are several errors in your reasoning. I will be to the point, for I also believe “that the final events are upon us”. When I speak of Luke twenty-one, Jerusalem and “the time of the Gentiles”, I too understand the word “until” as future. Our difference is in identifying the time and the event, which the word “until” points forward to in the fulfillment of the “time of the Gentiles”.

You use a false prophetic rule, which was invented in the dark councils of Romanism to arrive at 1967, instead of applying the rules of interpretation that William Miller, the pioneers of Adventism, and all the Bereans that have walked in the same path of study that those faithful men pursued until they laid down their mantle. Why God's people today are so quick to use false techniques, is absolutely amazing. Sister White never endorses *literal Jerusalem* as the Jerusalem of prophecy at the end of the world. She is clear:

“The city of Jerusalem is no longer a sacred place. The curse of God is upon it because of the rejection and crucifixion of Christ.” *Review and Herald*, July 30, 1901.

Paul taught that the Jerusalem of prophecy was no longer literal Jerusalem as well:

For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:25-26.

By the time Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans, *literal Jerusalem's* symbolic role in prophecy had changed. Paul and Sister White agree that old Jerusalem is no longer God's people, church or city. And with Inspired writings the rule is:

It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. John 8:17.

You oppose the entirety of Scripture when you assign Jerusalem at the end of the world as literal Jerusalem. Isaiah says this:

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:1-3

But not only do you oppose Scripture's identification of the correct Jerusalem in end-time Bible prophecy, you attack the very foundational understanding of Adventism. The twenty-three hundred day prophecy of Daniel eight verse fourteen is set within the context of the trampling down of Jerusalem. To incorrectly identify what the trampling down of Jerusalem is—is to undermine the very foundation of Adventism. Daniel chapter eight verses thirteen and fourteen state:

Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

Even if you are unsure of the purpose, meaning or intent of the question that brings forth the answer in those two verses, certainly you must see that the very subject is built upon a question that asks how long is the “sanctuary and the host” to be trodden under foot! These two verses are sacred ground, as is all Scripture; but these two verses are so foundational to Adventism that it seems to me, that there is no valid excuse for a Seventh-day Adventist to misunderstand them at the end of the world. We will be judged not only by the light we have, but by the light we could have had, if we had sought it as the Lord has commanded us to do.

In verse thirteen the words “sanctuary and the host” are crystal clear. The word translated here as “sanctuary” is only used as God’s sanctuary in Scripture. It is never used to identify a pagan sanctuary, as is the word translated “sanctuary” just two verses earlier, in verse eleven.

Yea, he magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily *sacrifice* was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. Daniel 8:11.

The distinction Daniel makes by using the two words translated as “sanctuary” in verses eleven and thirteen establishes beyond a doubt that the word in verse thirteen is God’s sanctuary and the word in verse eleven must be some other sanctuary. A corresponding truth that any Bible commentator acknowledges is that when it comes to God’s sanctuary—God’s sanctuary *always* includes His people, (whether directly identified or implied). This is the purpose of His sanctuary:

And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. Exodus 25:8.

The word “host” is upholding this truth, and the “sanctuary and the host” of verse thirteen is God’s sanctuary and His people that had been, and were going to be, “trampled down”.

In chapter eight, Daniel uses two words that are both translated as “vision”. If you count the times the word “vision” occurs, you will find it ten times. But those ten times are arrived at from two different Hebrew words. One conveys the meaning of the entire vision, while the other conveys the meaning of a part of the vision, or a snapshot as opposed to an entire video.

How long *shall* be the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

In this verse the word “vision” is identifying the entire vision, which began with the Medes and the Persians according to verse twenty:

The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

And this vision continues until the trampling of the “sanctuary and the host” is concluded. The sanctuary, God’s holy hill, the glorious holy mountain, the mountain of the Lord and Zion are interchangeable symbols in the Bible which refer to—Jerusalem. The question of verse thirteen is asking: “How long shall Jerusalem be trampled under foot?” The answer is: “Until 1844”, not—“Until 1967”.

Luke twenty-one is a parallel passage of Matthew chapter twenty-four and Mark chapter thirteen. Christ in all three places is speaking of literal Jerusalem and using its history and circumstances to identify the end of the world.

“Jesus did not answer His disciples by taking up separately the destruction of Jerusalem and the great day of His coming. He mingled the description of these two events. Had He opened to His disciples future events as He beheld them, they would have been unable to endure the sight. In mercy to them He blended the description of the two great crises, leaving the disciples to study out the meaning for themselves. When He referred to the destruction of Jerusalem, His prophetic words reached beyond that event to the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain. This entire discourse was given, not for the disciples only, but for those who should live in the last scenes of this earth’s history.” *The Desire of Ages*, 628.

Christ was applying and establishing the same prophetic rules that William Miller and the pioneers came to understand. One of those rules was that prophecy has a literal fulfillment before the “time period of the cross”, but after the cross, prophecy has a spiritual fulfillment.

Christ is identifying the literal destruction of Jerusalem in the cross time period, but stating that Jerusalem symbolized something different at the end of the world. It symbolizes mankind in rebellion at the end of the world—not God’s people. God’s people at the end of the world would be citizens *not* of literal Jerusalem, but citizens of heavenly Jerusalem. Jerusalem existed as the literal capitol city of the literal Jews until literal Israel was divorced from God and destroyed by literal Rome. Spiritual Jerusalem is the capitol city for spiritual Israel. Jerusalem has both a literal and spiritual place in sacred history and Bible prophecy. Part of the history of literal and spiritual Jerusalem is that God’s enemies would trample it down.

The question in Daniel eight verse eleven is, “How long shall the sanctuary and the host”, that is to say—Jerusalem; “How long will Jerusalem be trampled down by God’s enemies?” According to the definition of the word “vision” in the verse, the question is asked in terms of the trampling down that took place during the time period of the Medes and the Persians, (and by implication the trampling down before the Medes and Persians that was accomplished by Babylon), and it includes the trampling down which was yet to take place in the future by the Greeks, pagan and then papal Rome. Babylon, Medio Persai, Greece, and pagan Rome literally trampled down literal Jerusalem, but papal Rome, or if you will spiritual Rome, spiritually trampled down spiritual Jerusalem.

And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. Revelation 11:1-3

Spiritual Jerusalem was trampled down during The Dark Ages of papal supremacy and would be cleansed in 1844.

“I saw that while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married to the New Jerusalem; and after His work should be accomplished in the holiest, He would descend to the earth in kingly power and take to Himself the precious ones who had patiently waited His return.” *Early Writings*, 251.

The sanctuary cleansing began in 1844 in fulfillment to Daniel eight verse fourteen. And that verse, (Daniel 8:14.) was the answer to the question how long until the trampling down ceases. In Luke twenty-one verse twenty-four it states:

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

So what is the time of the Gentiles? It is obviously a period of time. It is also a prediction, and therefore a prophecy. It is therefore a time prophecy. You say you understand that there are no time prophecies after 1844, but you attempt to uphold one with your speculation about 1967.

Jesus made a prediction, “Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles”, and He included a time element with His prophecy, “until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”. Brother there is no way Jesus’ statement is not a time prophecy. It is the very definition of what a time prophecy is: A prediction of an event which will take place at a specific time! You acknowledge that Inspiration points out there will be no time prophecy after 1844, but then you move past that warning—to build a private interpretation of 1967.

Your private prediction about Cestius, the signet of Rome, Y2K, and *Dies Domini* is riddled with inconsistencies that never occur with God’s prophecies. If we agree that thirty-two and a half years after Stephen was stoned marks the point where the standards of pagan Rome were planted within the sacred grounds of the sanctuary, thus giving signal for Christians to flee the city; then the events at the end of the world that you say parallel those historical events must line up correctly. Yours don’t. Nor do they line up with Inspiration.

If Cestus’ act marks the time the siege begins and the time to flee, then the time the siege begins and the time to flee would symbolize the same time or event at the end of the world. God doesn’t leave loose ends, He sees the end from the beginning. You have *Dies Domini*, in 1995, paralleling Cestius’ planting of Rome’s banner, but you have it also paralleling 1999, when Y2K hit. You use Cestius’ single action at the beginning of the siege, to mark two end-time events that happened at different times. You also infer that 36 years after Stephen was stoned came the destruction of Jerusalem in A. D. 70, and therefore; by your reasoning, thirty-six years after 1967, brings us to 2003. Your whole interpretation is hung upon time. And it does not square with Inspiration.

Inspiration states that the Sunday law is the sign that parallels the Roman standards in 66 A. D., but you state it was *Dies Domini* in 1995. Your inference concerning 70 A. D., thirty-six years after the stoning of Stephen, supposedly parallels thirty-six years after 1967—2003. 2003 therefore parallels the final destruction of Jerusalem. This would mean that this year, (2003), human probation is to close for all mankind. As we already noted in *The Desire of Ages*, 628, the destruction of Jerusalem is identifying, “the final conflagration in that day when the Lord shall rise out of His place to punish the world for their iniquity, when the earth shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.” Your private interpretation means that we must have the national Sunday law in the USA, followed by a world Sunday law; during the time period of the latter rain, when the loud cry message is given; and all the events up to when Michael stands up and human probation closes—before the end of this year. I reject the prophetic rules you apply as erroneous, and I reject your conclusions.

You state, “We will soon find out”. The attitude that either “It doesn’t really matter what we believe about prophecy, because we won’t really know until after the prophecy comes to pass” or similar attitudes—prevents a person from fulfilling their responsibility to be a student of prophecy.

“Whatever may be man’s intellectual advancement, let him not for a moment think that there is no need of thorough and continuous searching of the Scriptures for greater light. As a people we are called individually to be students of prophecy.” *Testimonies*, volume 5, 708.

If we don’t know until after the fact, why search?

It is *required* that we understand prophecy correctly. We are to be students of prophecy, and we are also to study prophecy as Bereans—rightly dividing the word of truth. If we believe prophetic interpretation could be any old thing, and that we won't know until after it comes to pass—we will in all probability be lost!

“One saying of the Saviour must not be made to destroy another. Though no man knoweth the day nor the hour of His coming, we are instructed and required to know when it is near. We are further taught that to disregard His warning, and refuse or neglect to know when His advent is near, will be as fatal for us as it was for those who lived in the days of Noah not to know when the flood was coming.” *The Great Controversy*, 370.

As I have presented this argument to other “time setters” in the past, they have responded that their *time setting* does not meet the conditions of the previous warning. They state that even if their time prophecies are flawed, they are none the less acknowledging that His return is soon and the previous warning is for the Laodiceans in Adventism who are not studying prophecy in any way. But Inspiration warns that those who continue to set time will definitely not recognize that the advent is near:

“The repeated efforts to find new dates for the beginning and close of the prophetic periods, and the unsound reasoning necessary to sustain these positions, not only lead minds away from the present truth, but throw contempt upon all efforts to explain the prophecies. The more frequently a definite time is set for the second advent, and the more widely it is taught, the better it suits the purposes of Satan. After the time has passed, he excites ridicule and contempt of its advocates, and thus casts reproach upon the great advent movement of 1843 and 1844. Those who persist in this error will at last fix upon a date too far in the future for the coming of Christ. Thus they will be led to rest in a false security, and many will not be undeceived until it is too late.” *The Great Controversy*, 457.

Some try and avoid that last statement by saying their prediction is not identifying the time of the second coming of Christ, therefore their private interpretation is not addressed in the warning.

“Let all our brethren and sisters beware of anyone who would set a time for the Lord to fulfill His word in regard to His coming, or in regard to any other promise He has made of special significance.” *Testimonies to Ministers*, 55.

So what is the “time of the Gentiles” that ends in 1844?

“**The time had come** for an entirely new phase of work to be entered upon by the church of Christ. The door that many of the Jewish converts had closed against **the Gentiles** was now to be thrown open. And the Gentiles who accepted the gospel were to be regarded as on an equality with the Jewish disciples, without the necessity of observing the rite of circumcision.” *Acts of the Apostles*, 136.

It was the time that *began* when the gospel was given to the Gentiles.

“The one week—seven years—ended in A. D. 34. Then by the stoning of Stephen the Jews finally sealed their rejection of the gospel; the disciples who were scattered abroad by persecution ‘went everywhere preaching the word’ (Acts 8:4); and shortly after, Saul the persecutor was converted, and became Paul, **the apostle to the Gentiles**.”

“The time of Christ’s coming, His anointing by the Holy Spirit, His death, and **the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles, were definitely pointed out.** It was the privilege of the Jewish people to understand these prophecies, and to recognize their fulfillment in the mission of Jesus. Christ urged upon His disciples the importance of prophetic study. Referring to the prophecy given to Daniel in regard to their time, He said, ‘Whoso readeth, let him understand.’ Matthew 24:15. After His resurrection He explained to the disciples in ‘all the prophets’ ‘the things concerning Himself.’ Luke 24:27. The Saviour had spoken through all the prophets. ‘The Spirit of Christ which was in them’ ‘testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.’ 1 Peter 1:11.” *The Desire of Ages*, 233–234.

Notice that “the giving of the gospel to the Gentiles,” was “definitely pointed out”. Where had it been definitely pointed out? In the prophecy of Daniel eight verse fourteen—the twenty-three hundred days prophecy. Within the twenty-three hundred day prophecy the “time of the Gentiles” is definitely pointed out.

“The seventy weeks, or 490 years, were to pertain especially to the Jews. **At the expiration of this period** the nation sealed its rejection of Christ by the persecution of His disciples, and **the apostles turned to the Gentiles**, A. D. 34. The first 490 years of the 2300 having then ended, **1810 years would remain. From A. D. 34, 1810 years extend to 1844.** ‘Then,’ said the angel, ‘shall the sanctuary be cleansed.’ **All the preceding specifications of the prophecy had been unquestionably fulfilled at the time appointed.**” *The Great Controversy*, 410.

Here, Inspiration points out that after 490 years were cut off for the Jews, “1810 years would remain”. The specification of those remaining years were that they were the time period when the gospel went to the Gentiles. It states that the “all” “specifications of the prophecy **had been** [past tense] unquestionably fulfilled at the time appointed”. This is the prophetic time associated with the Gentiles, that comes to a conclusion in 1844. This is the time prophecy associated with the Gentiles that does not go beyond the point in history where we have been told time prophecies cease. This is an understanding of the “time of the Gentiles” which broadens and deepens the message of Daniel 8:14; instead of reaching out to Catholic ideas of a literal application of end-time prophecy. And this is just a small sampling of the Scripture and *Spirit of Prophecy* that can be brought into this study, and we barely scraped the surface of some of the deeper understandings connected with the correct understanding of the “time of the Gentiles”. I hope you will prayerfully reconsider your ideas about these things, for most assuredly the primary deception in Bible prophecy that Satan has invented for those who profess to follow the Bible is that old Jerusalem is the focus of end-time events. That focus was invented by papal Rome! It is not Adventism. Jeff

Dear Jeff,

Thank you for the audio studies on Daniel particularly on Daniel 11 & 12. One question surfaces in my mind: why are the dates in Daniel 12:11,12 at the end of the book if they are not yet future? This is a puzzle to me. There are numerous folks I know of who place these dates as literal, and yet to be fulfilled, as you know very well, I’m sure.

You have explained these verses as having already taken place—Correct? From the wording of Daniel 12:11,12 it sounds very much as though the dated are literal and in the future. “Blessed is he that waiteth and cometh to the thousand three hundred, and five and thirty days”,

You have endeavored to explain this, I know, but it's still unclear to me. Could you send me the tape where you explain this, please! It has me mystified, to say the least.

You are in my prayers, as you travel and minister to many people. Recently a friend loaned me a video of Charles Wheeling as he speaks of future events. He seems terribly mixed up to me, since I've sort of followed him over at least 25 years and have seen his predictions of definite dates come to nothing, time after time. His ministry is a paradox in a way, in that he has brought *The Great Controversy* to many countries by millions, yet he rearranges definite prophecies that we know were inspired by the Holy Spirit, in the 19th century, and on.

Truly we are living in fearful times, and I feel a deep need personally of Psalm 119:11 being my first goal. Therefore I memorize entire chapters of the Bible, and I'll soon be 80 years old. Folks much younger than I, tell me they aren't able to memorize. I disagree with them. It's something that anyone who sincerely determines to do—it can be done. I long to be like Jesus, and I feel the need to get to know Him in greater depth. I've memorized about 21 chapters, or am in the process of some of these, and found it the greatest blessing of my life, to be able to call these to my memory, when I wish, and also it changes me, little by little, into a more dedicated child of God, which is my greatest desire and prayer.

Please pray for my family, beginning with my husband, who will be 89, and still loves to watch football, and does things that deeply concern me, for a man who hopes to be saved eternally. He refuses to listen to me, I've learned, though I've said very little, over the 60-plus years of our marriage. I learned very early in our time together that it's only by example that any impact seems to be of any avail with O. My concern for him is great!

Also pray for our three children and their families, especially granddaughter T, who is 30, on drugs, a party-girl and a big worry to her mother. Thank you kindly. God bless you in 2003 very much. Sincerely A.

Dear Sister A,

You are correct: I do identify that the three time prophecies in Daniel twelve have been fulfilled.

And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that *it shall be* for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these *things* shall be finished.

And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what *shall be* the end of these *things*? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words *are* closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

And from the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, *there shall be* a thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. Daniel 12:7-12.

One purpose of prophetic symbolism is to make an understanding of future events difficult for God's enemies, but it is not intended to make it difficult for God's faithful people. If we will approach His prophetic word in a simple and prayerful way we will know the truth. The "daily" in this passage is obviously the beginning point for two of these time prophecies, for it says, "from the time that the daily *sacrifice* shall be taken away". Whatever one concludes the "daily" symbolizes, it is the starting point for the thousand two hundred and ninety days and the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days. A very simple piece of information connected with this understanding is that Daniel previously identified the "daily" in chapters eight and eleven:

Yea, he magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily *sacrifice* was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given *him* against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered. Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain *saint* which spake, How long *shall* be the vision *concerning* the daily *sacrifice*, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot? Daniel 8:11-13.

And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. Daniel 11:31.

Protestantism claims their motto is: “The Bible only”, but we know they left that position almost two hundred years ago. As Adventists we still make that claim for ourselves, and in doing so insist that the Protestants show us from God’s word, where the Sabbath was changed to Sunday. They can’t do it. We know that if God was to change something, He would make it clear in His word. There is no evidence whatsoever in the book of Daniel that demonstrates that Daniel’s identification of the “daily” in chapters eight and eleven, is suddenly something different in chapter twelve. So, very simply, whatever you determine the “daily” is, it must be the same thing all the way through Daniel’s testimony.

William Miller and the pioneers identified the “daily” as one of two desolating powers that would trample down God’s people and His sanctuary. The “daily” was paganism, the first of these two powers, and “the abomination of desolation”, the papacy, was the second.

“I read on, and could find no other case in which it [the daily] was found but in Daniel. I then [by the aid of an concordance] took those word which stood in connection with it, ‘take away;’ he shall take away the daily; ‘from the time that the daily shall be taken away’ I read on and thought I would find no light on the text. Finally I came to 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8, ‘For the mystery of iniquity does already work; only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way, and then shall that wicked be revealed.’ And when I had come to that text, O how clear and glorious the truth appeared. There it is! That is the daily! Well, now, what does Paul mean by ‘he who now letteth’ or hindereth? By ‘the man of sin,’ and ‘the wicked,’ Popery is meant. Well what is it that hinders Popery from being revealed? Why it is Paganism. Well, then, ‘the daily’ must mean paganism.” William Miller, *Review and Herald*, January, 1858.

“The daily sacrifice is the present reading of the text; but no such thing as sacrifice is found in the original. This is acknowledged on all hands. It is a gloss or construction put upon it by the translators. The true reading is, ‘the daily and the transgression of desolation;’ daily and transgression being connected together by ‘and;’ the daily and the transgression of desolation. They are two desolating powers which were to desolate the Sanctuary and the host.” Josiah Litch, *Review and Herald*, January, 1858.

I agree with the pioneers, not just because they said so, but because their reasoning on this subject is accurate. Sister White also agreed:

“Then I saw in relation to the ‘daily’ (Daniel 8:12) that the word ‘sacrifice’ was supplied by man’s wisdom, and does not belong to the text, and that the Lord gave the correct view of it to those who gave the judgment hour cry. When union existed, before 1844, nearly all were united on the correct view of the ‘daily’; but in the confusion since 1844, other views have been embraced, and darkness and confusion have followed. Time has not been a test since 1844, and it will never again be a test.” *Early Writings*, 74-75.

The “daily” in the book of Daniel is paganism and chapter twelve is identifying the time period when paganism (the first of two desolating powers), would be removed in order to prepare the way for the papacy (the second desolating power) to take control of the world. The date 508 A.D. is the year that the formerly pagan powers of Europe began their work of removing the three horns of Daniel seven (the Ostrogoths, Vandals, and Heruli) in order to allow the little horn that speaketh great things, (the papacy) to begin its work of desolation against God’s sanctuary and people. The removal of the three horns in Daniel seven is the same history Daniel symbolizes with the “daily” and “the abomination of desolation”.

There are two time prophecies that here use 508 as their starting point. The twelve-hundred and ninety, when applying the day for a year principle, brings us to 1798, the year the papacy received its deadly wound. This ending point is relevant with the time prophecy, for 508 was pointing to the thirty year work of preparation necessary to begin the 1260 years of papal rule. The fact that this date identifies the ending a papal rule is consistent with the message of the time prophecy.

The thirteen-hundred and thirty-five years, when also began in 508 brings us to 1843. It is here that we should expect to see a blessing, for the time prophecy states, “Blessed *is* he that waiteth, and cometh to” 1843. Was there a blessing in the year 1843 that fulfilled that time prophecy? Absolutely. Without a doubt. A blessing Satan works very hard to obscure and destroy.

“Christ said, ‘Blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them’ Matthew 13:16, 17. **Blessed are the eyes which saw the things that were seen in 1843 and 1844.**” *Manuscript Releases*, volume 21, 437–438.

The “blessing” in 1843 was to be among those who were involved with the fulfillment of the parable of the ten virgins.

“I am often referred to the parable of the ten virgins, five of whom were wise, and five foolish. **This parable has been** and will be **fulfilled to the very letter**, for it has a special application to this time, and, like the third angel’s message, has been fulfilled and will continue to be present truth till the close of time.” *Review and Herald*, August 19, 1890.

We answered a related letter just before yours in this newsletter. In that previous answer we referred to *Early Writings*, page 251, that states that in 1844, “while Jesus was in the most holy place He would be married”. The parable of the ten virgins is dealing with those who enter into the marriage procession with Christ. What a privilege to be among those who were to enter into and announce to the world that the marriage has begun. Notice the following description of that the 1843 time period:

“Like a tidal wave the movement swept over the land. From city to city, from village to village, and into remote country places it went, until the waiting people of God were fully aroused. Fanaticism disappeared before this proclamation like early frost before the rising sun. Believers saw their doubt and perplexity removed, and hope and courage animated their hearts. The work was free from those extremes which are ever manifested when there is human excitement without the controlling influence of the word and Spirit of God. It was similar in character to those seasons of humiliation and returning unto the Lord which among ancient Israel followed messages of reproof from His servants. It bore the characteristics that mark the work of God in every age. There was little ecstatic joy, but rather deep searching of heart, confession of sin, and forsaking of the world. A preparation to meet the Lord was the burden of agonizing spirits. There was persevering prayer and unreserved consecration to God.

“Said Miller in describing that work: ‘There is no great expression of joy: that is, as it were, suppressed for a future occasion, when all heaven and earth will rejoice together with joy unspeakable and full of glory. There is no shouting: that, too, is reserved for the shout from heaven. The singers are silent: they are waiting to join the angelic hosts, the choir from heaven. . . . There is no clashing of sentiments: all are of one heart and of one mind.’—Bliss, pages 270, 271.

“Another who participated in the movement testified: ‘It produced everywhere the most deep searching of heart and humiliation of soul before the God of high heaven. It caused a weaning of affections from the things of this world, a healing of controversies and animosities, a confession of wrongs, a breaking down before God, and penitent, brokenhearted supplications to Him for pardon and acceptance. It caused self-abasement and prostration of soul, such as we never before witnessed. As God by Joel commanded, when the great day of God should be at hand, it produced a rending of hearts and not of garments, and a turning unto the Lord with fasting, and weeping, and mourning. As God said by Zechariah, a spirit of grace and supplication was poured out upon His children; they looked to Him whom they had pierced, there was a great mourning in the land, . . . and those who were looking for the Lord afflicted their souls before Him.’—Bliss, in *Advent Shield and Review*, vol. I, p. 271 (January, 1845).

“Of all the great religious movements since the days of the apostles, none have been more free from human imperfection and the wiles of Satan than was that of the autumn of 1844. Even now, after the lapse of many years, all who shared in that movement and who have stood firm upon the platform of truth still feel the holy influence of **that blessed work** and bear witness that it was of God.” *The Great Controversy*, 400–401.

This history, (1843–1844) is where the blessing associated with the thirteen-hundred and thirty-five days prophecy is located. Those who place this fulfillment in the future are removing the foundational landmarks of Adventism. I say landmarks in the plural for this reason. The “blessed” history of 1843–1844 identifies when Christ began the wedding, but also several other items. If you move one, you move them all.

“The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in Daniel 8:14; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in Daniel 7:13; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by Malachi, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of Matthew 25.

“In the summer and autumn of 1844 the proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ was given. The two classes represented by the wise and foolish virgins were then developed—one class who looked with joy to the Lord’s appearing, and who had been diligently preparing to meet Him; another class that, influenced by fear and acting from impulse, had been satisfied with a theory of the truth, but were destitute of the grace of God. In the parable, when the bridegroom came, ‘they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.’ The coming of the bridegroom, here brought to view, takes place before the marriage. The marriage represents the reception by Christ of His kingdom. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, which is the capital and representative of the kingdom, is called ‘the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ Said the angel to John: ‘Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ ‘He carried me away in the spirit,’ says the prophet, ‘and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.’ Revelation 21:9, 10. Clearly, then, the bride represents the Holy City, and the virgins that go out to meet the bridegroom are a symbol of the church. In the Revelation the people of God are said to be the guests at the marriage supper. Revelation 19:9. If guests, they cannot be represented also as the bride. Christ, as stated by the prophet Daniel, will receive from the Ancient of Days in heaven, ‘dominion, and glory, and a kingdom;’ He will receive the New Jerusalem, the capital of His kingdom, ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.’ Daniel 7:14; Revelation 21:2. Having received the kingdom, He will come in His glory, as King of kings and Lord of lords, for the redemption of His people, who are to ‘sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob,’ at His table in His kingdom (Matthew 8:11; Luke 22:30), to partake of the marriage supper of the Lamb.

“The proclamation, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh,’ in the summer of 1844, led thousands to expect the immediate advent of the Lord. At the appointed time the Bridegroom came, not to the earth, as the people expected, but to the Ancient of Days in heaven, to the marriage, the reception of His kingdom. ‘They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage: and the door was shut.’ They were not to be present in person at the marriage; for it takes place in heaven, while they are upon the earth. The followers of Christ are to ‘wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding.’ Luke 12:36. But they are to understand His work, and to follow Him by faith as He goes in before God. It is in this sense that they are said to go in to the marriage.” *The Great Controversy*, 426–427.

You noted that the language of Daniel twelve appears to place these three time prophecies in the future. Most certainly Daniel identified these periods as in the future, for they were yet future to Daniel when he penned the words. But don’t be misled, those three time prophecies have been fulfilled. The “time, times, and a half” is identifying the 1260 years of papal rule from 538 until 1798. The “thousand two hundred and ninety days” began in 508 and ended in 1798. The “thousand three hundred and five and thirty days” began in 508 and ended in 1843. I hope this helps. Jeff

We have recently aquired a one-hour video interview with Dr. Agatha Thrash. The material contained on the video is excellent for both Adventists and non-Adventist. The video tape is \$15.00 plus shipping and handling. Those of us who have recieved and reviewed the tape have ordered several each, so we can share them with friends and family. The tape is truly that good. We recommend it to you with confidence.